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Contacts:

Joe Steele
LIFT
313-309-9132 (office)
jsteele@lift.technology

Ted Boyatt
Tennessee Chamber of
Commerce & Industry
(615) 256-5141
Ted.boyatt@tnchamber.org

**Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry and LIFT
Partner to Advance Manufacturing Industry
in Volunteer State**

The organizations will work together to increase awareness of lightweighting occupations and opportunities, build a robust talent pipeline for Tennessee's manufacturing industry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which also serves as the Tennessee Manufacturers Association, is partnering with LIFT – Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow, a Manufacturing USA institute – to build a robust pipeline of talent for the state's manufacturing industry. This includes strengthening educational pathways to postsecondary manufacturing-related credentials that prepare individuals for good jobs in advanced manufacturing, a key tenet of Governor Bill Haslam's "Drive to 55 Alliance."

Together, LIFT and the Tennessee Chamber will share insights on innovations to identify and promote new opportunities in the manufacturing sector, in turn, encouraging more people, from students to experienced workers, to consider manufacturing as a career choice.

LIFT, one of the founding members of [Manufacturing USA](#), part of the federal government's National Network of Manufacturing Innovation program, is a public-private partnership designed to help develop and deploy advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies, and implement education and training programs to better prepare the workforce of today and tomorrow.

"Manufacturers in our state employ nearly 350,000 people and to support and grow jobs going forward, we need to create a sustainable pipeline of workers with the talent and skills the industry demands," said Bradley Jackson, president and CEO, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry. "By partnering with a national institute like LIFT, we will be able to connect the many resources we have across our state to achieve that goal."

Sixteen percent of the gross state product is generated by the manufacturing sector and the need to support the industry with skilled workers in the future spurred the Drive to 55 Alliance, in which private sector companies, nonprofits and other leaders are coming together to ensure at least 55 percent of Tennesseans have a college degree or industry credential by 2025.

“We believe the U.S. can only be a global leader in advanced manufacturing if we have an educated and skilled workforce that is confident in using new technologies and processes,” said Emily DeRocco, education and workforce development director, LIFT. “We are proud to partner with the Tennessee Chamber and applaud Gov. Haslam and the Drive to 55 Alliance for their commitment to manufacturing and the workers of today and tomorrow.”

As part of the partnership with LIFT, the Tennessee Chamber will join and collaborate with other partnering state organizations in the LIFT region of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, including manufacturers and educational institutions.

ABOUT THE TENNESSEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Founded in 1912, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry also serves as the Tennessee Manufacturing Association. With statewide partnerships with business and local chambers the Chamber works in the halls of our Legislature on behalf of business. For more information, please visit www.tnchamber.org

ABOUT LIFT

LIFT is a Detroit-based, public-private partnership committed to the development and deployment of advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies, and implementing education and training initiatives to better prepare the workforce today and in the future. LIFT is one of the founding institutes of Manufacturing USA, and is funded in part by the Department of Defense with management through the Office of Naval Research. Visit www.lift.technology or follow on Twitter [@NewsFromLIFT](https://twitter.com/NewsFromLIFT) to learn more.

BUILDING 21st CENTURY MANUFACTURING TALENT

State Manufacturers Associations Collaboration Initiative: Tennessee Joins LIFT Partnership for Talent Development, Small and Medium Enterprise Outreach, Membership Services and Development

An Education & Workforce Development Initiative for LIFT... Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow



THE PROBLEM: Solving Big Issues Requires a Broader Team of Experts Across the Region

As both demand and employment in lightweighting-related advanced manufacturing jobs grow across the five-state LIFT region, including Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, LIFT is continuing to develop initiatives to better address gaps between workforce supply and employer demand.

While LIFT's membership and state-based education and workforce development teams have provided insight into each state's business environment, available talent, and skills gaps, a broader team of experts, with deep roots in each state and covering a wide spectrum of manufacturing industries and capabilities, is needed to fully address the growing workforce needs in our region.

PARTNERS

- The Ohio Manufacturers Association (OMA)
- The Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM)
- The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA)
- The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

EXPECTED ROLES OF THE STATE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION PARTNERS

Tennessee will join the existing LIFT partnerships with SMAs in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana to expand our understanding of the needs of the manufacturing industry beyond those three states and into the Volunteer State. The growing partnerships will showcase the benefits manufacturers find in LIFT and the other Manufacturing USA Institutes.

State Manufacturing Association partners and LIFT will work together in the following ways:



Share information from LIFT and other Manufacturing USA institutes with manufacturers



Serve as a forum for manufacturers to provide LIFT leadership the perspective of manufacturing employers



Partner on targeted and effective Education and Workforce initiatives



Increase engagement of small and medium enterprises



Continually identify potential new LIFT partners in respective states

THE SOLUTION: Teaming Up With Additional State Manufacturers Associations

The role of state manufacturers associations (SMAs) in talent development is expanding, and LIFT has now partnered with its fourth SMA -- the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry -- to help them grow in that space and deepen LIFT's relationships with Tennessee's manufacturers and educators.

LIFT's partnerships with SMAs now include the Ohio Manufacturers Association, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, the Indiana Manufacturers Association and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, bringing a combined 430 year legacy of manufacturing success. These groups reach thousands of manufacturers in their states and have served as the single, most representative voice of manufacturers to create manufacturing-friendly state policies in their state capitals and workforce programming in their communities.

SMAs are an important voice in the current LIFT state teams and will help serve as a connector between the institute and each state's key policymakers. With a strong legacy of helping manufacturers across the region, these four organizations have worked to strengthen the industry by supporting public policies, promoting awareness and providing education about the industry.

By adding the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the existing partnerships, members of both LIFT and the SMAs will be able to leverage the assets and expertise of all partners -- from manufacturing innovation projects, to education and workforce development programs, to support of pro-manufacturing policies in the state capitals.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

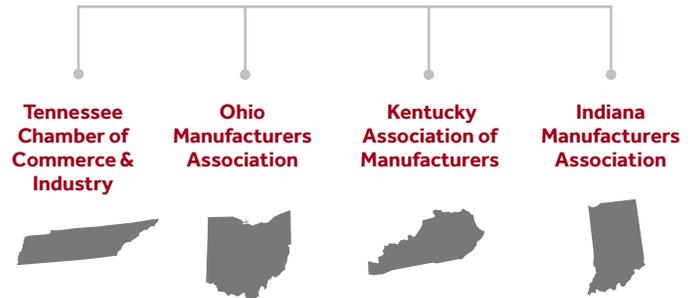
Founded in 1912, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry also serves as the Tennessee Manufacturing Association. With statewide partnerships with business and local chambers, the Chamber works in the halls of the Legislature on behalf of business and also with companies and educators throughout the Volunteer State to build a world-class workforce.

The Ohio Manufacturers Association's (OMA) membership of 1,400 companies reflects the type, size and distribution of manufacturing across Ohio in all manufacturing verticals, including transportation equipment, plastics, fabricated metal, machinery, and chemical. OMA facilitates Ohio manufacturers working together—and learning from one another—in key management disciplines of energy, environment, government affairs, human resources, safety & workers' compensation, tax & finance, workforce, and matters of manufacturing leadership.

Established in 1911, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers is Kentucky's most effective advocate for manufacturers. KAM's mission is to protect and create a manufacturing-friendly environment in Kentucky. In addition to advocating, KAM connects, educates and provides cost-saving programs and products to members. For more information, go to: www.KAM.us.com.

Formed in 1901, the Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) is the second oldest manufacturers association in the country and the only trade association in Indiana that exclusively focuses on manufacturing. The IMA is dedicated to advocating for a business climate that creates, protects and promotes quality manufacturing jobs in Indiana. Indiana is one of the top manufacturing states in America in wealth and jobs created, sustained and supported. More than 50 percent of all employment in Indiana has some connection to manufacturing.

430 years of experience



3,750 member companies
collaborating across four states



ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



Address the gaps in workforce competencies needed by manufacturers



Expand work and learn opportunities for students



Offer on-the-job training solutions for industry partners



Link and leverage resources on the ground today



Expand knowledge about and credibility of both LIFT and the National Network of Manufacturing Institutes broadly